

December 22, 2008

E-19J

Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor
Medford-Park Falls Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
850 North 8th Street
Medford, Wisconsin 54451

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Camp Four Vegetation Project,
Medford-Park Falls Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Price County,
Wisconsin - CEQ No. 20080447

Dear Ms. Higgins:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Draft EIS analyzes proposed actions to implement the current Forest Plan and move forest resources toward the desired future conditions for the Management Areas located in the analysis area. The primary project-specific needs are to develop the desired landscape species distribution and improve the diversity of age classes of timber, as well as maintain forest health and a safe, effective transportation infrastructure.

The Draft EIS documents analysis of a No-Action alternative plus three action alternatives. The action alternatives differ by the emphasis of each alternative - Alternative 2 emphasizes aspen conversion to conifer species; Alternative 3 emphasizes conversion of older age aspen to younger age aspen; and Alternative 4 emphasizes a more modest conversion of older age aspen to younger age aspen than Alternatives 2 or 3. The Draft EIS indicates that Alternative 3 is the preferred action.

Based on our review of the Draft EIS, we have assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections." We have no substantive comments on the preferred action. We find it consistent with the Forest Plan. A summary of the rating system used in the evaluation of this document is enclosed for your reference.

Please send one copy of the Final EIS and Record of Decision to my attention at the address listed on this letterhead. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at kowal.kathleen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator
Enclosure – Summary of Rating Definitions